

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1969

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5120

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, GE, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN/GDR CONSULAR CONVENTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 5856; (B) BERLIN 6918; (C) PARIS 771

1. DCM CALLED ON HIS BELGIAN COUNTERPART CRIEL ON JANUARY 23 TO INFORM HIM THA THE THIRD ROUND OF US/GDR CONSULAR REGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN IN WASHINGTON IN THE FIRST WEEK OF MARCH, AND TO DRAW ON PARAGRAPH 3 OF REF (A) TO EMPHASIZE THE FIRMNESS OF THE US POSITION ON NATIONALITY.

2. WHEN ASKED WHETHE THE BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE VISITNG THE GDR DURING THE SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY, AS WE HAD LEARNED FROM THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR LAST DECEMBER (REF B), CRIEL REPLIED THAT A FEBRUARY DATE FOR THE VISIT WAS NOT CONVENIENT TO THE EAST GERMANS AND THEY HAD PROPOSED MARCH. NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM BRUSSELS YET, BUT IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THE BELGIANS
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WILL AGREE TO A DATE IN MARCH.

3. CRIEL THEN SAID THAT THE NATIONALITY ISSUE IN THE DRAFT BELGIAN CONSULAR AGREEMENT REMAINED TROUBLESOME. THE CHIEF BELGIAN NEGOTIATOR HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GDR WOULD BE ADAMANT ON THE INCLUSION OF SUCH A DEFINITION TO THE POINT OF BREAKING OFF NEGOTIATIONS, IF NECESSARY. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE GDR AMBASSADOR IN BRUSSELS HAD RECENTLY INVITED THE HEAD OF THE OPPOSITION SOCIALIST PARTY AND SEVERAL KEY SOCIALIST MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO DINNER, AND HAD MADE QUITE A POINT OF THE NATIONALITY ISSUE. IT WAS CRIEL'S IMPRESSION THAT THIS TACTIC HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE, BECAUSE THE PARLIAMENTARIANS LACKING ANY UNDERSTANDING IN DEPTH OF THAT WAS INVOLVED, FOUND LITTLE TO OBJECT TO IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A SIMPLE STATEMENT ABOUT NATIONALITY. CRIEL WAS CONCERNED THAT THIS ISSUE COULD BECOME A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT--ADDING A POLITICAL DIMENSION TO THIS PROBLEM FOR THE GOB.

4. THE BELGIANS HAVE RECEIVED AN ACCOUNT OF THE FISCHER/SAVAGNARGUES DISCUSSION OF THE NATIONALITY QUESTION DURING THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECENT VISIT TO PARIS WHICH IS SIMILAR TO OURS (REF C). CRIEL THOUGH FISCHER'S PROPOSAL OF A VARIANT ON THE NATIONALITY THEME HAD INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF THE PREDICAMENT OF DUAL NATIONALS. GROVE EMPHASIZED THE DESIRABILITY OF BELGIAN/FRENCH/ITALIAN/US SOLIDARITY ON THE NATIONALITY QUESTION, OBSERVING THAT IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE EAST GERMANS AT THE LEVEL OF FOREIGN MINISTER SEEMED THEMSELVES TO BE LOOKING FOR OTHER WAYS AROUND THE PROBLEMS POSED BY A STRAIGHT FORWARD DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY. COOPER

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